bBr 325.10.1

Received Dec. 13-

Providence R.I.
Dec 12/1898.

Wm Brewster Esq
Cambridge Mass

My dear Sir :- I send by mail a skin of a Thrush and four skins of Horned Larks, which, if I am not asking too much, I should be pleased to have you identify for me. We have no museum or collection of birds here to which we can carry our specimens for identification, although Mr Southwick at the new Park Museum is working hard to get a collection together but it is a long story when there is no money, and having to depend on donations. I call the thrush a Bicknells, but it being a

young bird there is a question in my mind about it. The Horned Larks are evidently the Prairie and alpestris. but as they are so nearly alike I wanted an authority to judge as on them.

A Black Vulture was taken near here soon after the big storm and is the first capture of its species for Rhode Island. Thanking you for your kindness and trouble, and if at any time I can reciprocate in any way I will be only too glad to do so.

Yours sincerely
H. S. Hathaway.

Merchants Nat'l Bank, Providence R.I.
Enclose stamps for return postage.

[

Westtown, Pa.
Dec. 12, 1898.

[The Fields were at
Co. adjoining.
The Thomas were
Strangers.]

I can't [illegible]

Nov 3 1899

Mr. [illegible] Beyle
Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Chase Smith has recently presented to the City of Providence a very complete collection of the birds of Rhode Island and he [illegible] each [illegible] to make it representative of all the birds recorded as having been found in the state [illegible] Have [illegible] illustrations [illegible] specimen [illegible] taken [illegible] to [illegible] the next.

[illegible] the great educational value of such a collection, and [illegible] community [illegible] by it. [illegible] desire is to [illegible] specimen [illegible] the birds [illegible] state, [illegible] following: Snowbirds, Whitethroat, and Tree Sparrow. These [illegible] are the only species that are known as having been taken in this state.

[illegible] will be made a very [illegible] to you. [illegible]

Hathaway, H.S.
Mar. 3, 1899

[illegible]

[illegible]

Sincerely [illegible]

[illegible] Hathaway

[illegible] 498 [illegible]

[illegible] last [illegible] in actual [illegible] capture

Loons -

Laughing Gull

Sandpiper -

Long neck Duck -

Western [illegible] Sandpiper

Short Eared Owl

[illegible] Pelicader

[illegible] Sand Grouse -

Greater Shearwater

Forster Tern

Kentucky Warbler

Red bellied Woodpecker

Henslow's Sparrow

Leadbeater's Sharp tail Sparrow

Sooty Shearwater

If you know of any specimens of the above having been taken and they seem to atten[illegible] would esteem it a [illegible] to be informed

H. S. H.

Jan 23 1900.

My dear Mr Brewster:

When at Cambridge, I promised to let you know if we were successful in getting another specimen of a Dry billed Dowitcher. I have just found an adult bird killed at Newport late in July 1899. Mr Smith wished me to write you telling of our find and that if you so desire he would be pleased to return your bird as we agreed to, or if it meets your pleasure to leave it in the collection until we get an immature bird like it. We wish to have the matter entirely agreeable to you, and would be glad to know your disposal of it.

Mr R N Rowe Jr kindly proposed to put my name before your Nuttall Club as a corresponding member, but informs me that you have a rule which bars anyone living so near to Cambridge from becoming a corresponding member and has suggested that I have my name presented as a resident member. I have written him as follows, "if agreeable to yourself and associates I would be pleased to be elected a resident member and would be very greatly obliged to

Hathaway, H. S.
Jan. 23, 1900

you, to propose my name. I will have occasional opportunities to come up although it will not be regular at all, and I should feel highly honored to be a member of your Club." If perfectly agreeable I should be very glad to have my name considered by you.

Mr Walter Angell of this city in looking over some ducks which had been shot on the Warren River R.I. came across three apparent immature Golden eyes (American) but in studying them carefully with the description in Coues key he thinks and I do also that they were Barrows Golden eyes. We were unable to buy but one. This has been mounted, and may I send it to you to name for us? You are our nearest authority in the bird line, and have been very kind in setting us aright on several specimens, and we are very grateful to you for your kindness, but do not wish to annoy you too much.

With my very best regards I am.

Sincerely yours.

Harry S. Hathaway

Box 498. Providence R.I.

Feb. 8

My dear Mr Brewster:

Your very kind gift has been on hand for several days and I have been waiting for the Golden eye to be finished. I feel myself that it is G. c. americana, but I want to remove all doubt. I have accordingly sent it by express to you to-day together with the Dovekie which we bought for a long bill. There has been a question in my mind, and I am in the same attitude as the bird, scratching my head over it. It is small for a long bill yet your series showed a large variation, and yet the barring on the side reed remembered yours is similar. I hope it is a long bill, as we appreciate the value which you place on your bird, as being the only one in your collection in that plumage and will take pleasure in returning yours should ours prove to be a long bill. But if it is not, we trust you will let us keep yours and we will try again to find another. This bird is poorly mounted, that I send you, and we would have it remounted anyway. We are constantly adding to the collection and run across rarities occasionally. We

Hathaway, N.S.
Feb. 8, 1900.

however lack a few, which I will name, and would be greatly obliged to you if you knew of any R.I. record of them, to inform me, that we might make an effort to secure them: Murre, Canvasback Duck, Ring-neck, Baldpate, Pintail, Gadwall, Laughing Gull, Audubon Shearwater, Greater and Sooty Shearwater, Roseate Tern, Caspian Tern, and Yellow bellied Flycatcher.

We have had two or three small flocks of White wing Crossbills around, and have added three in different plumages to the collection. I will also enclose in the box a Redpoll which I think is Holboelli without question. Thanking you for your very great kindness and trouble ~~and~~ your willingness to identify our birds, I am Sincerely yours

Harry S. Hathaway.

*20 Westminster St. Providence R.I.
Merchants Nat'l Bank.

If you desire return the box to my address above

Sept 27 1907.

Dear Mr Brewster

May I again trouble you to name two birds which I am sending under separate cover? One a willet but whether a Western or not I am unable to determine. Although Mr Smithwick brought this sub species to your attention, he left no specimens for us to identify by. I shot this bird from a flock of 8, and saw three more the same day.

The sandpiper approaches the white rumped to my mind, but where is the white rump "always present" according to all descriptions? This bird was alone and came into the decoys. It is roughly skinned as I had a number to care for and didn't make up. Thanking you for your kindness and return of the specimens at your leisure I remain

Yours truly

Harry S. Nathaniel

Merchants Nat'l Bank

Box 498. (Providence R.I.)

by Adam Sigrun

Oct 17 1907

Dear Mr Trumbull

I received the birds and your very interesting letter and thank you for all the trouble I have put you to in identifying the birds. As you suggest I shall send the Willet to Dr. Bishop and get his opinion. I realize the difficulty in separating immature birds so closely related. For myself I feel more like calling it the eastern form, yet why should a flock be here when they probably breed not much further north now than Virginia?

I had a Clapper Rail sent to me killed at Point Judith Oct 13 1907 by Harry S Champlin which is the first instance that I know of its being taken in this state. Will eventually publish the record in the Auk.

Sincerely yours

Harry S Hathaway

Box 498 Providence R.I.

THE MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
OF PROVIDENCE, R.I.

APR 29 1909

Dear Mr Brewster

I enclose herewith 2 photos of what I am very positive is a Blue Goose. The bird was shot on Hope Island this state last December and was unfortunately mounted "dead game" style, by Wm Critchley at the Brooklyn Academy of Science I believe. They said there that it was a Snow Goose but upon my looking at the bird I feel there is no question but what it is a Blue Goose and would like to have your opinion from these photos. The head and neck were quite "rusty", and I think the photos will give you a good idea of the pattern of coloration.

So far as I know this is the second instance of the taking of Chen caerulescens in Rhode Island

With my best regards and thanking you for your opinion I remain

Yours truly

Harry S Hathaway

THE MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
OF PROVIDENCE, R.I.

MAY 4 1909

Dear Mr Brewster

When you are at your museum shall be glad to hear the result of the Blue Goose comparison. Would say further in describing the specimen that the neck was white to the sharp line of demarcation of greyish brown on the lower neck which does not show very plainly in the photo owing to the "fuzziness" of the feathers. Many thanks for your kindness and hope will prove to be Canvasbacks

Yours sincerely
Harry S Vathaway

THE MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
OF PROVIDENCE, R.I.

May 27 1909.

Dear Mr Brewster.

I am very grateful to you for your kindness in comparing the photos with your Snow Geese. I felt that the fine white tail and rump and the intermixture of white feathers in the wings would turn it toward a Snow Goose. The description in all the books that I have (and they include every one of any importance published in this country) are very meagre and vague. In fact I have been unable to find any description of the young Snow ~~Goose~~, and also Blue Geese by which they could be readily identified. An article in the Auk from you would be of decided help in distinguishing the young and old of each of the Lesser, Greater, and Blue Geese and defining when a Lesser goose stops and a Greater begins would be highly appreciated and of much value. The two young Snow Geese in Brown University museum are what I would call "unbleached linen" in color and are uniform all over. Again thanking you for your kindness I remain

Yours truly
Harry S Nathaway.

there and he caught three more of the youngsters two of which I banded, and hope some day they will be reported.

From what little I know of Black Ducks I heartily agree with you that there are two distinct varieties and I do hope we will be able to help solve the mystery.

With very kind regards I remain

Sincerely yours

Harry S Hathaway

Box 1466

Providence R.I.

Sept 7 1910.

Dear Mr Brewster

When at Point Judith last May, a young gunner down there secured by aid of his intelligent dog "Gloomy" three black Ducks, a month old and had them confined in a small pond. He told me they caught a few every year that had been hatched in the marshes and kept them until they were eatable. It occurred to me that this was a grand opportunity to help settle the status of the green leg and red leg variety. I wrote him not long ago to see if he would keep them over until next April and I had a reply that he would try too if he could get some thing out of it to pay for the grain. I thought you might like to know this and so have written you. If you have any separates on the Black Duck question which you published in the Auk, he would like to have them and I should be pleased to forward to him. As I go down there every fall and spring two or three times I can note any change in the coloration. I had the help of his dog the day I was

Nov 11 1910.

Dear Mr Brewster

I went to Point Judith Oct 12 to visit the Champlins and see what progress the Black Ducks were making toward "rubripes". I found they had five in all with their wings clipped and seemingly enjoying life on the shore of a little pond 30 feet in diameter near their barn. Their legs were all uniformly orange yellow with a slight "wash" of dusky on the front edge of the leg and on the ridge of the toes. Their bills varied some in the brightness of the green one being quite light. They were all very uniform in size and I should say slightly smaller than four wild birds which I shot in August (the 17th and 20th) at Quonochontaug, doubtless due to their not having the food that they would get in a wild state. Those Quonahontaug birds had orange yellow legs with a dusky wash giving them a brownish orange appearance yet distinctly orange.

The Champlins are about to build a wire fence around the pond so they can not escape, and are quite eager to help solve the problem. One of the Champlins who has shot a great many Black Duck on the Point says there are distinctly two kinds and spoke of the difference in the coloration of the head and large size of the red legged ones. They have in company with them 8 Blacks, 4 Mallards. I hope to go down again in January and will report condition at that time. With my very best regards I remain yours truly

Harry S Hathaway
Providence R.I.
Box 1466

Please don't overlook the separates for them.

HARRY S. HATHAWAY,
ADMINISTRATOR.
HOURS: 12:45 TO 2:45 P. M.

ESTATE OF FRANK B. SPRAGUE, M. D.
504 BANIGAN BUILDING
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Answered May 20

MAY 4 1911

Dear Mr Brewster

I regret to have to tell you that our Black Duckes disappeared some time in March probably attracted away by migrants. The boys had promised faithfully to coop them up, but like all farmers kept putting it off until too late.

I was planning to have you go down and see them, so went down and found out this result yesterday. Under the circumstances, as it was then carelessness in not caring for them, you are under no obligation to them. I am sorry that we could not solve the problem this year, but the chances are that they will get some more as the ducks breed on the Point every year and their dog is a dandy at catching the gunsters. If they do get any I think I will endeavor to raise 2 or 3 myself.

Sincerely yours

Harry S Hathaway

MERCHANTS NAT'L BANK,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Dec 3 1 1911
Providence R.I.

Dear Mr Brewster

In response to an inquiry of Mr Fred J Jencks an veteran ornithologist of R.I., as to whether he had ever found or knew of the breeding of the Passenger Pigeon in this state; he informs me that "Once in West Greenwich R.I. a wild pigeon flew from a pine to another tree near by & I popped him, a beautiful ♂. I went and looked where he flew from and found nest with one egg. Don't remember to whom I sold either, but you might write Wm Brewster who captured several of my rarities either for himself or the Boston Soc of Nat History. It was due to 1880, probably in May, but more likely before '80 than afterward, should say range was '78 to '81." The also was very interesting to me and I write to see if you can give me any facts from your records about this specimen.

I have in my collection a young rail which from all I can learn is undoubtedly a King Rail 4 or 5 days old taken by me on one of the fresh water marshes at Point Judith. I wish to send this to you to determine for me, upon learning that you are at home, otherwise thinking you might be away I would have sent at this time.

Thanking you for any information on the Pigeon and wishing you a Happy New Year I remain, Yours truly Harry S Nathaway Box 1466

Jan 14 1912

Dear Jim Brewster

I am sending under separate cover young rail, supposedly a King and very second specimen of the Sharp tail Sparrow which I think is a Nelsons. In 1909, Aug and Sept, I had 5 or 6 King Rails sent me from P & Judith and I made up my mind that a pair had bred there that summer. So in April 1910 I visited the point and upon approaching a small fresh water marsh, I heard several "grunts" very like. Thinking it to early for a nest, I went again on May 29 1910 to hunt the place over. Harry Champlin placed his dog "Gloomy" at my disposal, remarking that he had

caught a young rail that morning besides three young Black Ducks, which were the ones that he attempted to run to breeding time to determine the goodness of your red leg duck and which of course as I have informed you we were disappointed in. I hadn't gone far in the marsh when "Sloppy" made a jump near me and in an instant dropped this little black specimen which he had killed with one snap of his jaws. It dawned upon me at once that this was my King Rail & not very much to likely to suit me, but on further search I was unable to locate any nest or the nest it had come from. In early May 1911 I searched again for the nest but could find no evidence of the birds whatever and no adults were shot in either 1910 or 1911 to my knowledge. I did find on this last visit, a Black Ducks nest with 9 eggs and saw the female return 10 feet and she was a very small bird with green bill and green legs. I was in hope the boys would secure some young the past year to raise but they did not.

I have had a fine treat the past week. Went to Brewer Maine to see the Manly Hardy collection and was delighted to see so many rare species. I wish we had money enough to land it in Providence, but it is a tight fisted place. I am writing to the Boston Society of Nat Hist to see if Jewels Passenger Pigeon landed there. It is a very interesting piece of news and I hope to get more definite data.

Thanking you for your kindness in identifying my birds I remain

Sincerely yours

Harry S. Nathaway

Box 1466 Providence R.I.

JAN 18 1912

Dear Mr Brewster

At your suggestion I am sending the young rail to Dr Richmond. I think I jumped at conclusion after reading Baird Brewer & Redway's description of the bill of the downy young. My specimen when fresh had tip of bill and nasal patch white which differs from the Virginia in that the latter is orange red. But doubtless the bill fades in a few days. I have a specimen of the Virginia just out of the shell which is about half as large as the specimen sent you and the bill is differently marked; i.e. the black band encircled the middle of the bill while the tip was orange red as well as both mandibles.

Have just heard from the Bates Son of Mt. Hoti and they are unable to find any record of Jencks Passenger Pigeon coming to them. I think that this will have to go down in history without any data. I can see no reason to doubt Jencks report of it for he would be the last one to mix things with the Dove.

Thanking you for your kindness in examining the specimens I remain

Yours truly,

Harry N. Nathaway

Box 1466 Providence R.I.

Feb 29 1912.

Dear Mr Brewster:

In regard to the young rail which I sent to Dr Richmond at your suggestion. He replies as follows "we have no specimens in exactly comparable plumage or age. It is certain that the bird is a Rallus virginianus, since it agrees more closely with this species in the glossy greenish color of the head both above and below particularly on the throat. In the young of R virginianus in our collection (which are considerably older than your bird) the pattern of color on the bill appears to be like yours". At the same time I sent the Sharp tailed Sparrow and Dr Richmond says "The sparrow is Nelson's Sparrow (P. nelsoni nelsoni) without question".
This rather upset things after you had said it was subvirgatus, so I sent to Dr Dwight. His reply is "It is nearest to nelsoni although the stripes of the back are near those of subvirgatus. It is an intermediate like others I have & would puzzle anyone who did not have series for comparison: Thus you see both Dr Richmond and your own goodself were right in your determination. Dr Dwight provided subvirgatus on the label, and I can not claim a typical nelsoni for R.I. yet and must try again. I have added a Rusty Blackbird as a winter resident to R.I. on Feb 4 1912. Saw two and shot one in Appponaug. Pretty tough winter for them to be hanging around.
With kind regards I remain.

Sincerely yours
Harry S Hathaway
Box 1466 Providence R.I.